

## CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for retransmitting signals, comprising:  
means for decoding contents of a unit of received signal;  
means for generating a feedback signal;  
means for determining a quality metric of said unit of received signal;  
means for instructing said means for generating said feedback signal to generate said feedback signal in accordance with said quality metric; and  
means for preventing decoding of said unit of received signal if an indication received on a control channel indicates that said unit of received signal is not to be decoded.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said unit of received signal is a packet.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said quality metric is a cyclic redundancy check.
4. An apparatus configured to retransmit signals, comprising:  
means for decoding contents of a unit of received signal;  
means for generating a feedback signal;  
means for determining a quality metric of said unit of received signal;  
means for instructing said means for generating said feedback signal to generate said feedback signal in accordance with said quality metric;  
means for detecting a preamble of said unit of received signal; and  
means for preventing decoding of said unit of received signal if said preamble indicates that said unit of received signal is not to be decoded.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said contents of said unit of received signal are decoded in accordance with information carried on a control channel.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said feedback signal is a burst of energy.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said burst of energy is a bit.
8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said feedback signal contains no energy.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first feedback signal is a bit.
10. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising means for transmitting said feedback signal at a determinable time instant.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said determinable time instant is fixedly delayed from an event time instant, said event time instant being selected from a group consisting of:
  - a time instant when said unit of signal is received;
  - a time instant when a determination of whether said unit of signal is to be demodulated is made;
  - a time instant when said unit of signal is demodulated; and
  - a time instant when said quality metric is computed.
12. An apparatus configured to retransmit signals, comprising:
  - means for decoding contents of a unit of received signal;
  - means for generating a first feedback signal;

means for determining a quality metric of said unit of received signal;  
means for instructing said means for generating said first feedback signal to generate said first feedback signal in accordance with said quality metric;  
means for generating a second feedback signal; and  
means for instructing said means for generating said second feedback signal to generate said second feedback signal in accordance with a sequence number of said unit of received signal when a retransmission of said signal in accordance with said quality metric is declared a failure.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising means for declaring said retransmission of said signal in accordance with said quality metric a failure when:

said unit of signal is not received within a predetermined number of retransmissions; or

said unit of signal is not received within a predetermined period measured from a first transmission of said unit of signal; or

said unit of signal is not received within a predetermined period measured from transmission of a request signal corresponding to said unit of signal.